

metabolism." This concept is reminiscent of the "Metabolic Theories" of Geddes and Thomson and Oscar Riddle. The hypothesis receives some support from the presence of "henney" feathering in the cocks of certain breeds. In further support Table III. (p. 111) summarises results of gonadectomy and transplantation of gonadic tissues, but no specific references are given to the data from which the results have been derived. The important contribution of Finlay to this field is neither acknowledged in the text nor mentioned in the bibliographies. The only detailed evidence which favours the hypothesis rather than the accepted endocrine theory is derived from a single bird described by Greenwood and Crew, and this can scarcely be regarded as critical experimentation. Full details justifying the writer's claims will be awaited with interest.

A short Chapter on "The Mode of Inheritance of Sex Dimorphic Characters" emphasises how little is known of this subject. The book closes with a chapter on the "Sex Ratio." Difficulty in obtaining accurate information on the ratio at conception and the absence of satisfactory hypotheses to account for the deviation from equality which evidently exists rather handicaps the discussion.

Although somewhat speculative and with some tendency to minimise rather than to discuss difficulties the author's treatment of the main subject is both attractive and stimulating. The bibliographies will be useful to the research worker. The illustrations are excellent.

ARTHUR WALTON.

Hill, A. B., B.Sc. *Internal Migration and its Effects upon the Death-Rates: with Special Reference to the County of Essex.* No. 95, Special Report Series, Medical Research Council. H.M. Stationery Office. 8s. 6d.

THIS valuable report consists of two parts. Part I. is a clear summary and analysis of official statistical data as to migration from the county of Essex and its effects. Part II. contains the results of a special investigation into the "after histories of home-keepers and migrants." The field workers in this enquiry were the local clergy, school teachers and health visitors, and there seems no reason to believe that the information obtained was not substantially accurate. The main object of the enquiry was to throw some light upon a particular problem of vital statistics. It is well known that town areas are less healthy than rural areas and that rural rates of mortality are lower than urban ones. If, however, the rates of mortality at different age groups are considered there is a striking exception to this general rule; an exception which has existed ever since accurate information has been available. The male rates for the rural districts in the age group 20-25 are but little below the London rate, which in its turn is below that for England and Wales. In the groups 15-20 and 25-35 the rural rates are also high. The female rate for the age groups 15-20 and 25-25 is actually higher in the rural districts than in London, though the excess was much smaller in 1901-10 than in previous decades. The high rural rates in the age groups mentioned is mainly

due to phthisis and it is obvious that the phenomenon is associated with migration. The decrease in the difference between the London and rural rates is correlated with the decrease in migration.

Various explanations have been offered. The two examined are (1) That young migrants contract phthisis in the towns and return home to die. The results of the enquiry gave no support whatever to this statement. (2) That migration is selective and therefore leaves the rural population susceptible. The results give some support to this explanation, though it amounts to little more than the opinion that "the best go." The enquiry revealed that most migrants go to known situations; the men mainly to outdoor work, the women to good class domestic service. It also showed that the great majority are successful and remain in good health.

Valuable as are the results of this enquiry it would be well not to build too much upon them. Rural Essex is hardly typical, it is too near London. The migrants mainly go direct to London since there are few other neighbouring towns. But a great deal of rural migration is by stages, first to the small town and then to the great city. (*Weber, Growth of Cities. Redford, Labour Migration in England*). Essex is, moreover, too near London for its inhabitants to have any delusions as to streets paved with gold. They would only venture to known good prospects. London is also a city with a vast number of miscellaneous industries, most of them on a relatively small scale and about which it is not easy to get information. In the North and Midlands it is a matter of common knowledge when employment is brisk and it is difficult to believe that there is not a considerable amount of migration "on spec," when trade is good.

The report naturally lays stress on the deplorable rural housing conditions as being a factor in the high death rate from phthisis. The low pay of the agricultural labourer is cited as a possible additional factor. Agriculture is, however, according to vital statistics a healthy occupation and the high death rate is rather among males employed in other occupations. Similarly the married women are better lives than the single and it is the married women who would be likely to suffer most from the low wages. It might be added that it is the agricultural workers, rather than those in other employments, who are so badly housed in the country. The author inclines to the view that the main factor is that migration is selective and that, of those who remain, the occupation of agriculture selects the most healthy men and marriage the most healthy women. This is, however, merely an hypothesis, and there seems room for another enquiry as to the life histories of phthisical cases. No doubt those definitely deficient, the halt, the blind and the lame are mainly excluded from the two occupations above mentioned. But agriculture being poorly paid it would seem likely that other occupations attract the best and not the worst of the rural male population. In regard to marriage, if this were a select occupation from the health point of view, presumably the Eugenics Society would not exist. Further it does not seem clear why selection does not affect deaths from other diseases more markedly. Is not a possible cause that the rural population does not acquire immunity in early life by constant exposure to small doses of infection? Exposure, if it

does occur, is to large doses in stuffy workshops and insanitary dwellings. The migrants go to good conditions in towns with good nutrition and so are enabled to acquire immunity. In the days when small pox and other epidemics were rife it was noticed that rural districts might escape infection for a considerable period, but, if infected, not only were the number of cases large, but their severity was also marked.

In conclusion, this report is interestingly written and well worth study. It does not solve the problem at issue, but it paves the way for further enquiry.

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**Keyserling, Count Hermann, and others.** *The Book of Marriage.* Jonathan Cape. London, 1927.

THIS book is of the very first importance. Count Hermann Keyserling is one of the most eminent of living philosophers, and has made a prolonged study of religion and of social systems all over the world. He has here formulated the modern problem of Marriage, suggested a thesis for its progressive solution, and collected twenty-three collaborators of different nationalities and varying degrees of eminence to write to his thesis, each from his own specialised point of view and each surveying the problem from a different angle. The contributors include names of international reputation, such as Havelock Ellis, Jacob Wassermann, Drs. Jung and Adler, and Professor Nieuwenhuis, of Leyden, besides others, mostly German and Austrian, who are less well known to the general reader.

The various contributions differ widely both in merit and interest; they also vary greatly in lucidity. The Teutonic passion for abstraction, and the carelessness which employs exclusively the jargon of some particular branch of science, when deeper thought could express the same idea in a more catholic way and with a higher degree of intelligibility, constitute a blemish on many of the German contributions. It must also be said that for the most part they suffer severely from being translated into American and not in English; there are innumerable genuine misuses of language which are a serious obstacle to the British reader.

As is to be expected. Count Keyserling's own contributions are the most important. And it is not easy to overestimate their importance, since this book is addressed to the general public, rather than to the expert. For in the last resort, it is the popular and general attitude towards it which has a formative effect on any institution. The popular attitude towards marriage, as expressed in literature, shows two successive phases: the romantic attitude, which blindly blessed all love-matches, even of the diseased; and the cynical attitude, disillusioned to the point of despair, which has recently held the field. It would hardly have caused surprise if a philosopher, an adherent of no particular school, and holding the tenets of no one creed, should have expressed some of the prevalent dreary scepticism with regard to marriage in the modern world. But Keyserling, with all the weight of his learning and position behind him, proclaims unhesitatingly his